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1962/10/22

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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Info

FROM: Asuncion

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 146, October 22, 9 p.m.

NIACT

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SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

DEPCIRTEL 700.

Go signal received 3:30 p.m. Saw Foreign Minister 4:00 p.m. He and I spoke with President Stroessner 6:30 p.m. Not having either speech or draft resolution available I could only present President's letter to him and cover all points set-forth in paragraph 4 through 9 of Circular 700. President's reaction was that Paraguay's consistent stand against Castro-Communism continued as firm as ever and that he was glad to learn that resolute action was being contemplated by USG. He reminded me that when band of Castroites invaded Panama several years ago, Ambassador Plate was active member of COAS investigating team whereas Argentine Ambassador had ducked out and several other countries refused to serve. Everybody knew where his government stood on Communism, including Che Guevarra, who last year had stated at Punta Del Este that GOP was harder on Communists than any other government in hemisphere. That statement was source of pride to President. As for possible internal disturbances, he discounted those because Argentine General Ongania had just recently assured him Argentine Armed Forces would act to prevent subversive groups from training and forming on Argentine soil preparatory to infiltrating Paraguay. That was where the trouble had all come from before. He thanked

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Reviewed by: Eliah Kelly

Date: 2/10/92

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-2- 146, October 22, 9 p.m. from Asuncion

me for offer of anti-riot equipment and showed at least preliminary interest in penultimate paragraph Kennedy letter re cooperative military action, but stated he and Foreign Minister needed a little time to consider Kennedy's speech and related documents before being in position to say precisely what GOP's position would be on such matters. Foreign Minister and I explained purpose of proposed COAS meeting tomorrow and I expressed hope to President that Ambassador Plate might receive instructions to support USG's position. I judge that he will, but probably not by 10:00 tomorrow.

President appreciated having received direct word from President Kennedy and is going to answer the letter.

SNOW

DMB

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